

GREAT MEADOWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
MONTHLY NARRATIVE: JANUARY 1993

A. HIGHLIGHTS

B. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

Climatically, January was a relatively normal month. Both temperatures and precipitation were near normal. Snow covered the ground for a portion of the month, with a total of 11 inches accumulation. In addition, nearly 1 1/2 inches of rain fell. Temperatures were variable through the period with high temps into the mid 40's and lows into the single digits. No below zero temps were recorded in January.

D. PLANNING

6. Other

E. ADMINISTRATION

1. Personnel

1/04-08/93 - R.O.S. Frisque, use or lose annual leave.

1/05/93 - Moses attended the Concord Conservation Coffee, 7:30 - 9:30.

1/06/93 - Moses assisted Special Agents in the execution of a search and seizure warrant on a residence in Quincy, Mass. The search of the house was conducted from 9:30 A.M. until 2:30 P.M. Seizures included video tapes of numerous illegal hunting incidents, still photos of hunting clients, and business records. An aluminum boat, 50 h.p. engine and trailer used in the hunt guiding business was also seized and transported by Mgr. Moses to Great Meadows for locked storage.

1/07/93 - Moses and Mass. Audubon Exec. Pres. Gerry Bertrand were invited to a lunch by Bill Ashe. The water chestnut harvesting machine matching money for the Foundation was the major topic of the meeting. Several other refuge related topics were discussed including Monomoy, Oxbow expansion, Great Meadows land acquisition.

1/08/93 - Moses attended the Shermans Bridge re-opening ceremonies conducted by the Towns of Sudbury and Wayland.

1/11/93 - Moses attended the John Hay Governor's Commission meeting at the Bridges House in Concord, N.H.

1/12/93 - Station staff and safety meeting. The safety meeting included a video on proper chain saw use and maintenance. Station deficiencies in regards to chain saws were identified. Staff meeting included discussions on winter work schedules, R.O.S. Ware absence at Monomoy for FLETC training, updates on GRM land acquisition efforts.

1/14/93 - R.O.S. Frisque attended the first meeting of the local Emergency Response Contingency Planning Committee in Wayland. The group, comprised of local community residents is charged with providing the ground work for emergency response to a petroleum or chemical spill that may impact resources and affect public safety.

1/19/93 - Moses travelled to the R.O. to meet with Land Acquisition Biologist Bill Zinni and establish the proposed expanded boundary for the additional land to be requested at Ft. Devens along the Nashua River in the North Post area.

1/19/93 - The N.U.S. Corporation, under contract with the EPA and in coordination with the Mass. DEP, used satellite triangulation to identify the location (lat. & long.) of refuge wells. This technology was incorporated throughout eastern Mass. to locate individual well sites.

1/20/93 - Moses interviewed with Stephanie Koch, Univ. of Mass. wildlife student for the Monomoy Coop. Education position. This was the second interview.

1/20/93 - Peter Burke from Craig Brook Fish Hatchery picked up the Crescent Band Saw on surplus at GRM.

1/21/93 - Moses and Endangered Species Biologist Anne Hecht travelled to Marthas Vineyard for meetings with the Trustees of Reservations (TTOR) concerning Piping Plover management plans for the Vineyard and Nantucket. Moses discussed the expired TTOR/Nantucket NWR Coop. Mgt Agreement and the draft revised agreement with TTOR personnel. Plans are to have the new Coop agreement in place for this breeding season. Also in attendance were Scott Hecker, Mass Natural Heritage ; Susi Von Oettingen, End. Sp. biol., Concord, N.H. Enhancement office; Crane's beach TTOR personnel Dave Rimmer and Lisa ?, and Dianne Boritos, Mass. DEP wetlands.

1/26/93 - Moses and Whit Beals, SVT, met with the Owner/operators of the Wayland Golf Course, Bob and Tom Quick. We discussed the possibility of the Quicks selling their 3 parcels of river flood plain marsh to the refuge.

1/27/93 - Moses travelled to Cape Cod for two meetings, the first with Cape Cod Museum of Natural History Director, Susan Lindquist and education Coordinator Trish Curran concerning the 1993 tour programs for Monomoy. The second meeting was with Congressman Studds' Hyannis office staffer, Mark Forest and Cape Cod Salties Pres. Louis MacKeil. The subject was the Cape Cod Salties request to have an organized night fishing event at Monomoy point during the period when the refuge is closed to night fishing.

1/28/93 - Moses attended the SUASCO Wild and Scenic Rivers Comm. meeting from 7:30 - 10:45 P.M. at Wayland.

Student Trainee (ORP) Dena Donaldson called to inform the refuge that she will not be able to return to Great Meadows until late August 1993, as she must take classes this summer and will graduate in August.

4. Volunteer Program

Volunteer activities in January included ongoing trail and fish tank maintenance projects, and special seasonal projects, wood duck box maintenance and bluebird box construction. Five volunteers donated a total of 28 hours this month.

Volunteer Sallie Hoffman donated, through her employer, an old but usable computer, monitor, keyboard and modem. The computer will be used in the environmental education program at the refuge.

6. Safety

The monthly safety meeting addressed chain saw safety and maintenance. An assessment of personal protective needs and saw maintenance needs was performed and required protection and supplies are being purchased.

F. HABITAT MANAGEMENT

2. Wetlands

Riverine floodplains and the Concord impoundments were inundated throughout the month but were entirely ice covered. The Sudbury and Concord rivers remained relatively ice free for the month. Canada geese, and a few blacks, mallards, and common mergansers were present on the rivers through the month.

G. WILDLIFE

2. Endangered and/or Threatened Species

An immature bald eagle was observed by Bio. Tech. Burke on the ice of the Sudbury river. Crows were actively harassing the eagle which seemed to be consuming something, possibly a muskrat.

3. Waterfowl

Canada geese, blacks, mallards, and common mergansers were all present through the month. An occasional hooded merganser and coot were observed along the Sudbury river.

6. Raptors

An immature bald eagle, red-tailed hawks, and coopers hawk were observed during the month.

10. Other Resident Wildlife

A pileated woodpecker was observed around the headquarters building by the staff and Bio. Tech Burke observed 4 bluebirds near Rices barn during wood duck box checks.

H. PUBLIC USE

1. General

2. Outdoor Classrooms - Students

No student visits this month.

4. Interpretive Foot Trails

Trails received cross-country ski use this month.

Final approval of wayside exhibit panels for trails at Great Meadows, Oxbow and Monomoy was sent to Wilderness Graphics. A mock up of the custom orientation panel for the kiosk at Monomoy was also sent to Wilderness Graphics.

6. Interpretive Exhibits/Demonstrations

Art Show preparations are well underway. A news release inviting artists to participate was sent, and information packets were sent to past participants and others requesting them.

7. Other Interpretive Programs

17. Law Enforcement

Equipment necessary to outfit the refuge shotguns with slings was ordered.

18. Cooperating Associations

The annual sales tax return was filed with the state this month. Sales have grown enough to warrant quarterly filing in CY93. Monthly sales for January were low.

I. EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

8. Other

January was a busy month for completing wood duck box maintenance checks. All boxes with the exception of those near the Bedford boat launch were serviced in January. Wood duck boxes at Oxbow NWR were also completed in January, with assistance of volunteer Brett Forest.

Boundary posting was initiated in January. Signs were replaced around the Heard pond portion of the refuge, and along County Line and Water Row roads. Traditional metal "blue goose" signs were replaced with heavy gauge plastic "blue goose" signs with the wording "consult manager for current regulations" on the signs. These boundary signs were placed in high visibility areas.

The John Deere PTO operated auger was in disrepair after considerable use in 1992. Seals were replaced and a new yoke was purchased for the unit.

The internal workings on all water closets were replaced in January. Eight toilets received new hardware after numerous problems with mis-functioning facilities occurred in late 1992. All the toilets were located at refuge headquarters. A toilet was replaced in the third floor women's bathroom.

Maintenance Mechanic, Sears was busy painting in January. The first floor visitor contact center, first floor bathrooms and adjacent hallway were completed in January. Painting continued into Feb.